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HANAOTO COMICS
Citta Citta Series
HOUBUNSHA

家賃半分の居場所です。

麻生 海

麻生 海
1月10日生まれ、A型。
某、スタンプ作りやってる会社で
印刷部門にて下積み修業中。
今日もレトラプ作成に明け暮れ、
げっそりしている。

『家賃半分の居場所です』
ルカ一家の平和な日々をかき乱すトムとヤマト。彼らがやってきた
目的は何なのか？ 新たな事件の予感に、ルカの心は揺れ動く。
しかも、一緒に暮らすエゴイストな同居人・ハルトくんの、
知られざる一面が明らかになり…!?
波瀾万丈なラブライト・ハウスの日常は、
果たして、ルカくんの心を無事に守ることができるのか!?
ドキドキのめくるめく人の恋路がいっぱいです!!
書き下ろし4P漫画・4P漫画も収録!!
読んでくれよな♡

cover design/YAMATO

CitaCitaSERIES
◆桜生晴
家賃半分の居場所です。
◆目原よしかづ
放課後は触れ厳
慌ててもイケない
◆佐久間智代
アンコウの不落
◆日吉丸晴
家政夫物語
◆こうじま奈月
GP学園生徒会執行部●●
新装版 GP学園情報処理部（全4巻）
◆佳門サエコ
恋人は管理職
ネコ★また
◆原田宗
ハッピーハングリー
◆九条タカオミ
愛しのにゃんこ

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◆CHI-RAN
KING OF LOVE（電子も正単）
君は愛を求め
◆原田宗しき
快楽の園
◆SHOOWA
Nobody Knows
NON Tea Room
月日性のとりち
◆笹原めい
全部俺のモノ
化学室の王子
フルイコトシテイ
遊びじゃないの
悪いコでもイイヤ
悪いじゃないけど
ワルイ男でもイイ
◆夏カリフ
ラブロマンス・スウィートキス
愛のカタラで恋をするのだ
天国な恋人
遠い国にて恋せせん
犬も歩けば恋をする
犬も歩って恋をする

HANAOTO COMICS Citta Citta Series

家賃半分の居場所です。1

A PLACE FOR HALF A RENT . 1

AT MY WORK PLACE, WHEN A CUSTOMER APPROACHED ME...
Hey
Shiraishi. Are you gay?
OTOBE
A CO-WORKER INTERROGATED ME.
Um...
Yeah.
Is it that obvious?
I'VE ACCEPTED MY UNCOMMON SEXUAL ORIENTATION YEARS AGO, SO I ANSWERED TRUTHFULLY.
What!?
Are you serious!?
No way!! I've never seen a homosexual guy in person before.
Don't give him that reaction. If you want to know, ask in a more polite way, okay?!
Ahaha
Don't worry.
I already have a boyfriend.
The two of you aren't even my type.

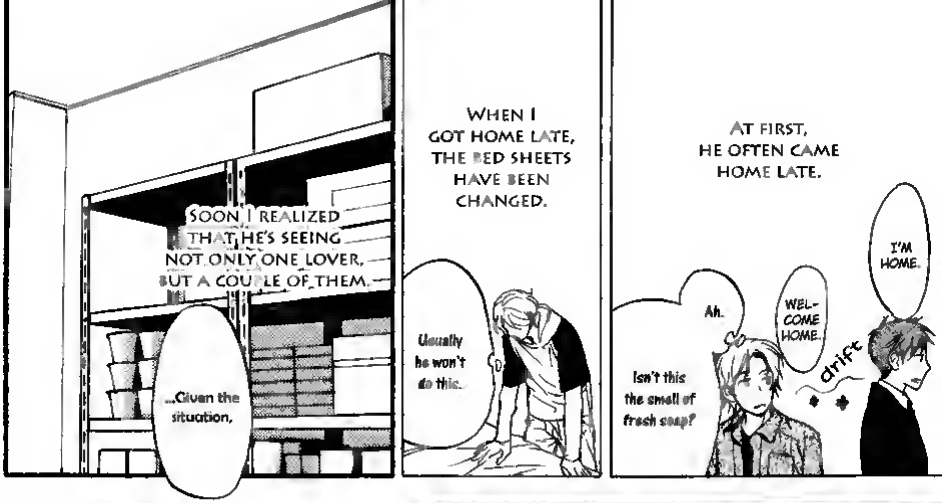
EVER SINCE I'VE BEEN OPEN ABOUT MY SEXUAL PREFERENCE, I'M USED TO HAVING PEOPLE AVOID BEING AROUND ME BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHAT I AM.
You must be kidding me.
That's disgusting!!
I'll ask the store manager to change my work shift...
.....
Re-really?
I already have someone I like
Don't worry
WHACK
Ow!!
What the hell...
Otobe. Your reaction disgusts me the most.
Shiraishi said you're not his type, right?
Now you can relax and get back to work.
Here. Go and restock the cup noodles.
.....

.....
You do it.
I have cleaning to do, remember?
THE TRUTH IS, KANZAKI IS KIND OF MY TYPE.
I better not tell him that. Or he'll distance himself from me.
USUALLY, NORMAL PEOPLE TREAT US INDIFFERENTLY IF WE DON'T SHOW THEM THAT WE ARE HOLDING AFFECTIONS TOWARDS THEM.
Shiraishi. Forget about what he said. You don't have to change your shift.
Kanzaki...
You're not causing any problem, anyway--
Anyhow...
Maybe it's better if i ask the manager to have my shift changed...
Thanks
KANZAKI ALREADY KNEW ABOUT ME SOME TIME AGO, AND I OFTEN TALK TO HIM ABOUT MY PROBLEMS.
No problem
Ah--
Yeah.
You're right.
I won't stop you from doing what you need to solve your problem with him.
After all, you're doing this part-time job to avoid your lover, right?

I DO HAVE A LOVER.
...HOWEVER, THESE DAYS I WANT TO REDUCE OUR TIME TOGETHER. THAT'S WHY I TOOK THAT PART-TIME JOB.
I'm home...
So sleepy~
Ng...
shrug
Damn. I overslept...
squirm
Ng...
Ah!
Y-you're home.
...Who is it?

I'm Mizuse-senpai's brother.
I have to get ready to go to work now.
Looks like the train is still in service. I'll go now.
SLAM
Uh
Ok.
Nice to meet you.
Oh... you're his brother?
Nn...? you call your brother "senpai"?
You're cute
...Sorry.
I'll talk to you when I get back from work.
Okay...
ACTUALLY, SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING... WE'VE NEVER BEEN TOGETHER PROPERLY

HE WAS MY SENIOR IN JUNIOR AND HIGH SCHOOL. HE PAID ATTENTION TO ME AND TOOK CARE OF ME WELL.
I'M GLAD YOU COME!!
HUH?
GRAB
メリ
SENPAI
LET ME STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.
I'VE JUST BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND AND RIGHT NOW I NEED LOVE!!
GIVE ME SOME CONSOLATION!
WHAT!?
I had a fight with my parents.
I ADMIRED HIM SO I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM HIM.
Huh?
BUT NOW, I WISH I REALIZED IT THAT TIME.
He accepts everyone who approaches him.
Since back then, rumors about him have been spreading around. I know that.
THE PROBLEM IS, HE'S DOING IT WITHOUT ANY ILL INTENTION.
I don't want to use the bed anymore.


SOON I REALIZED THAT HE'S SEEING NOT ONLY ONE LOVER, BUT A COUPLE OF THEM.
...Given the situation,
WHEN I GOT HOME LATE, THE BED SHEETS HAVE BEEN CHANGED.
Usually he won't do this.
AT FIRST, HE OFTEN CAME HOME LATE.
I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME.
Ah.
drift
Isn't this the smell of fresh soap?

Unable to compose a fake story promptly ↑

Family is a different matter...
Weren't you being honest and straightforward with your friends?
Hahaha...
And then, just like a scene from a soap opera drama, I ran away from home.

Are you sure you want to leave everything just like this?
I know you're trying to avoid spending time with him. But on the contrary, that means he has more time to cheat on you, right?
I'm sure your parents have changed their minds about you.
I keep in touch with my mother through e-mails. But with my father, I...
...Anyway. Just go back home.
It's better to not keep on living with that kind of guy, right?
Shiraishi.
Do you love him?
Which one is better? Being uneasy living with your parents
or keep on avoiding your boyfriend and pretending that you don't know he's cheating on you?
I know that I don't hate him.
...Actually, I'm not quite sure.
YOU NEVER GET ANGRY. I LIKE THAT PART OF YOU
But I'm sure if I leave him
I'll feel relieved
...so I thought.

Want to stay in my place?
Of course, if you like being with him better than me, I won't stop you... though...
my place is kind of cramped, you see.
No problem.
Please let me stay!

I see. This is how you got closer to your senior, huh?
Huh?
Kanzaki, you're too good to be true!!
I'm about to fall for you...
.....
hug
Time to work
Okay!
I can't go in there... I mustn't...

Sorry for intruding...
Whoa...
So cramped here...
CLACK
The bathroom is combined together with the toilet!?
An attic!! You place the mattress up there?
They're still selling the stove gas burner!?
CLACK
Shiraishi, do you have classes for today?
Yes. Afternoon class.
Then, you can drink, right?
THUD
Don't run around like that.
You're so rude.
Calm down.
Sit down for now
.....

stare
...
Surprisingly, Kanzaki is kind of pushy...
Beers so early in the morning?
The more reason you have to drink it.
I'm kind of weak when it comes to alcohol.
I've opened it for you. Now, have a drink.
shhhhss
You also did the same to Otobe when he was rude to you the other day.
But, you know... when you're in trouble or in suffering,
Well... I know it's one of your strong points.
What is it?
You don't have to force yourself to smile
Don't worry.
Everything will be alright.

I HAVE A HABIT OF SMILING TO AVERT THINGS. I DON'T KNOW WHEN I STARTED THAT HABIT, BUT THAT'S HOW I ALWAYS PROTECT MYSELF.
.....
Um...
I'M HIS BROTHER.
pat
pat
NO PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED .
I KNOW, THAT EVEN IF I SMILE AND FAKE MY FACE,
I'll try...
...to fix that habit.
UNLIKE ME, KANZAKI HARDLY SMILES.
Okay
Drink up.
THUMP
My hair...
THAT DAY, BECAUSE OF THE EXCITEMENT AND THE ALCOHOL, I FELL TO SLEEP WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.
Ah.
He's smiling...
That's rare.

!
thump
The attic ...
How did I get here?
Ah. my cell phone!
RING
Mayba he's trying to leave me a messaga
Seri-ously...
I went out of his apartment without giving him any notice. I did that on purpose, though...
I haven't slept with anyone these past few days. That makes this situation worse for me, I guess.
We didn't do anything, did we?
Anyway... This is too close...
crawl crawl crawl crawl
Zzz...

You'll catch a cold if you don't use the blanket.
zzz
This is... a feather mattress?
This is for winter right?
Are you half asleep?
It's so thick
.....
flomp
stare
SHOCK
Creak
Why are you using the mattress for a blanket?
You're the one who told me to use it.
I did?
Just a simple meal though~
Food~
You have any food you don't like?
No.
I eat everything.
You're lucky
very much about food
So he was really half asleep that time...
Actually, you didn't have to use it as blanket if you don't want to.
Nice bath~
Aah~
I feel all relaxed now.

Feel free to buy your own soft drinks.
Aren't you mistaking it with tea?
Eeh?
Drinking soft drinks after a meal is the best, don't you think?
Nope.
Or soda?
You have soft drinks?
WHILE EATING, WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT RULES WE HAVE TO ABIDE SINCE WE'RE NOW LIVING TOGETHER.
AT THAT TIME, I CAN FEEL HIS PERSONALITY IN THE ROOM
Go ahead.
Itadakimasu...
It'll be inconvenient for you if you don't have the key, right?
Are you sure I can have one?
This is your key.
Don't lose it.
Oh, I almost forgot
By the way...
You've talked about it thoroughly with your senior before you left, haven't you?
Why aren't you saying anything?
Are you ignoring me!?
.....
Somehow, this relationship has become similar to that of two lovers, huh?
slurp slurp
I haven't talked to him about breaking up...
I just told him that I'm leaving the apartment.
Ah...
It was a sudden decision.

Oh, that's right. Tomorrow, on your way back here, don't forget to buy toilet papers from the supermarket at the south exit gate.
Tomorrow they'll have a big discount for toilet papers. A person can only buy 2 at the max. Tomorrow, not today. Remember that.
Okay.
Ah, I'll also will pay half of the rent.
And also for my living expenses here..
They'll sell the tomato cheap too, so we'll have pasta for tomorrow.
Oh well..
HAVE WE EVER HAD THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP IN THE FIRST PLACE? I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDERING ABOUT THAT MYSELF.
FORGET ABOUT BREAKING UP.
.....
HE ONCE HAD A GIRLFRIEND WHO LIKED TO SPEND MONEY AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THAT BAD EXPERIENCE, HE LIKES TO SAVE MONEY RATHER THAT SPEND IT UNNECESSARILY.
I've bought them
Ah~ Kanzaki!
Let's go home together
tap tap
KANZAKI IS AN ECONOMICAL MAN.
Maybe my existence was just an eyesore back then at that apartment.
.....
Um..
There's no message whatsoever.
Even though a couple of days have passed since I left..
clap
Are you waiting for a call
...from your senpai?
Well, n...
I just...
HE'S SO PERSISTENT ABOUT MONEY TO THE POINT THAT HE'S EXCEEDING THAT OF A HOUSEWIFE. HOW LAUGHABLE..
.....
FLIP
Have you bought your soft drink, too?
Ack!!
I forgot!!
shock
You can buy it cheaper at the supermarket in front of the station.
I'll buy it when I get back from work tonight.

Why don't you try to contact him yourself and straighten up things between the two of you?
It's better ...
to straighten up things with him.
.....
You're right...
He's cheating on you.
I understand if you love him so much that you choose to have your eyes closed to that fact in order to be with him.
You're not sure whether you love him or not, right?
"I'm not quite sure
..but I know that I don't hate him."
Then why can't you break up with him properly?
Kanzaki... is he angry because I'm so indecisive?
From that point of view, for some reason you're also being too selfish.

If you don't want to continue your relationship with him, you can just break up, right?
EVEN IF SENPAI FALLS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME
I STILL WANT TO CLING OVER HIM ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
Senpai was the only one...
BECAUSE I'M GAY.
When I was in junior high, I realized that I'm a gay.
AND KANZAKI IS NOT.
HE WON'T UNDERSTAND.
That time, only Mizuse-senpai
who showed an affection towards me.
"Shiraishi You're so cute. I love you."
I KNOW THOSE WERE JUST EMPTY WORDS. BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING HAPPY.

Waiting for his call is the best I can do...
If for some reason...
I'm unable to find someone like him for the whole of my life... just the thought of that...
If things continue like this...
I'M AFRAID I WON'T FIND ANYONE ELSE
You had your first heart-break with a guy, huh?
Well...
Would you date a guy who you don't even like just because he agrees to sleep with you?
IF THAT PERSON IS KANZAKI...
thump
.....
IF HE REALLY WANTS ME
IF HE REACHES OUT HIS HANDS TO ME, THEN I WILL...

I HAVE A FEELING I CAN BE HAPPY...
...Yeah.
Even if
that person doesn't hold any feelings for you and he only want to have sex with you?
?
Yes.
I see.
If you want to
you can go back to your senior's place anytime you want.
THIS ATMOSPHERE JUST NOW?
Um...
...WHAT IS THIS...?

I said, you don't have to force yourself to smile.
In the end
my being here
is just a bother to you, right?
I didn't intend to say
that you're a bother or anything like that.
Sorry...
I kind of took everything out on you.
Okay then.
.....?
... Forget it.
It's nothing.
Let's sleep.
...Okay.

I don't understand Kanzaki at all.
...Are you sure you don't mind me being here?
Yeah.
Kanzaki. Are you always this kind to everyone?
...I'm not as kind as you think I am.
I have ulterior motives in everything I do.
What!?
Jolt
...nnn
.....
You're sleeping already?
Kanzaki tends to fall asleep easily.
He can fall asleep in exactly 3 seconds.
THUMP
Ulterior motives?
What does that mean?
Ah...
Is it about money?
Is it about sharing half of the rent? He wants me to pay more?
I shouldn't expect anything from a normal guy...
zzz...

slide
...If you would allow me to stay here
that's more than enough for me.
FLOP
!
THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE LEARNED THESE PAST FEW DAYS.
UWAAH...
Again...
KANZAKI
LIKES TO HUG ANYONE NEXT TO HIM IN HIS SLEEP.
thump
thump
HE DID THIS EVERY NIGHT.

zzz...
zzz...
He doesn't know about my feelings. That's why he easily invited me to stay at his place.
Did he forgot that I'm gay? That I tend to fall in love with men?
But then again I feel like I'm defenseless in front of him...
hug
I can't sleep...
But~
It'll be alright if I make use of the situation, right?
THIS KIND OF SITUATION
MAKES ME THINK THAT HE HAS A FEELING FOR ME. BUT THAT'LL BE A MISUNDERSTANDING ON MY SIDE.
zzz...
IF HE ASKS ME TO GO BACK TO HIM, I'M SURE I'LL GET LOST IN HIS WORDS AGAIN.
IT'S TRUE THAT I WANT TO BE WITH SOMEONE
BUT THE TRUTH IS
I'M KIND OF RELIEVED THAT SENPAI HASN'T CONTACTED ME.

EVEN
THOUGH
I KNOW
THERE IS ONLY SADNESS
WAITING FOR ME
IF I WERE TO COME BACK
TO HIM...
Welcome...
Huh?
Shiraishi!
So this is
where you're
working at?

VAGUELY I REALIZED...
A condom...
The one he used to buy...
SENPAI DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH OF A FEELING TOWARDS ME...
Huh!? Is that his girlfriend?
You're continuing your part time job even after you're back at your parents' house?
.....
...Yeah.
HIS FACE IS CALM AS USUAL. LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED...
Oh, I almost forgot. My cell phone...
...Yes?
I've bought a new one though...
It got washed accidentally with the rest of my laundry the day you moved out.
That was the worst day ever...
Send me a mail. Once is enough...
I'll have your number stored in my new cell phone.
Hey.. what are you looking so angry for?
Okay then...
I'll be waiting for your mail.
Shiraishi.
...My cell phone
is in the employee locker...
I keep it there.
.....

You are free to stop by at my place anytime you feel like it.
STOP... BY...
You don't have to force yourself

You don't have to force yourself to smile.
RUSTLE
That kind of invitation
Senpai...
rustle
is better left unsaid when you're buying this kind of thing.
Hey... You've changed a bit?
I... SURPRISED MYSELF BY WHAT I'VE SAID.

THAT MEETING WITH SENPAI WASN'T AS SHOCKING AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
Nn?
Pull
Pull
Putting on a smiling face is indeed a habit that hard to fix, huh?
Is there any problem with that?
Nah... I'm so damn sleepy
You don't look sleepy You walk as briskly as you used to
Huh? Didn't you say that...
I'm surprised you didn't take on his offer -
On the contrary. I think it's better for you to smile the way you were just now.
As desperate as I could be - that's a bit-
But somehow...
I feel like
A burden has been lifted from my shoulders.
...It's good to know
the reason why he hasn't contacted you.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW, IT WOULDN'T MAKE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH KANZAKI GOING ANYWHERE EITHER.
I know he said that with a good intention.
But somehow, I feel like...
torn
Have you
sent him a mail?
No, I haven't.

Not only I'll pay half of the rent, but I'll also try to be useful to you. I can do laundry and cleaning too
From now on, I'll be relying on your care forever. That's for sure.
That was the best hint he could think of
With all my pleasure.
After all
I'm not going back to him. Ever!
.....
-Am I really
A bother to you?
Why did you ask?
stare
Seems to me you're not in a good mood right now.
-so I thought that maybe you're-
Um...
Why...?
I OVERCAME MY PROBLEM WITH SENPAI JUST A WHILE AGO. IF NOW I TELL HIM THAT I LOVE HIM, I'M SURE HE'LL HATE ME FOR THAT.
RIGHT NOW, IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME IF I CAN BE TOGETHER WITH HIM.
Really?
Well- I knew a smile from a person who rarely smiles is charming in its own way-
I think that you're a very nice guy
That time when I saw your smile my heart skipped a beat.
Didn't show much expression on his face
Am I?

EVEN THOUGH I'LL BE TROUBLED IF YOU GET YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND...
I think it's better for you to show up some expression every now and then.
I'm sure you'll be more popular if you do that.
Oh, really?
I'll try then to do as you suggest me to do.
I'LL BE IN HEAVEN IF THAT SMILE IS FOR ME...
KANZAKI'S SMILING FACE
Shira-ishi
brush
Caressing my hair...
More than that is un-imaginable.
A FEW DAYS LATER, I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SMILE.
Don't "ah" me!!
...Ah.
Where's your effort!?
But on top of that, I want you to smile too!!
I'm so happy!!
What? You're not happy I bought you your favorite drinks?
expressionless
Along with other groceries
I bought you soft drinks.
I'm home
KANZAKI'S SMILE
.....
You...
Didn't you say that you're going to do as I suggest you to?
RUSTLE

In the end, there's no progress of making him smile. The same as there's no progress of our relationship.
I'm home.
But still, being together with him...
Being by his side is enough for me. I'm happy.
Splash
Ah. He's taking a bath...
He did it exactly like I teach him.
He took care of the laundry as well...
So neat...
"You'll be wearing this anyway, so it won't make any difference, right?"
"But I'm going to put it in my bag!!"
"That's why I told you to use some space in my closet!!"
Someday when I have to move out from here, huh?
"Someday when I have to move out from here, it'll be troublesome if my things keep on increasing without me realizing it!"
By the time I say that, I wouldn't be able to live here anymore.
I love you.

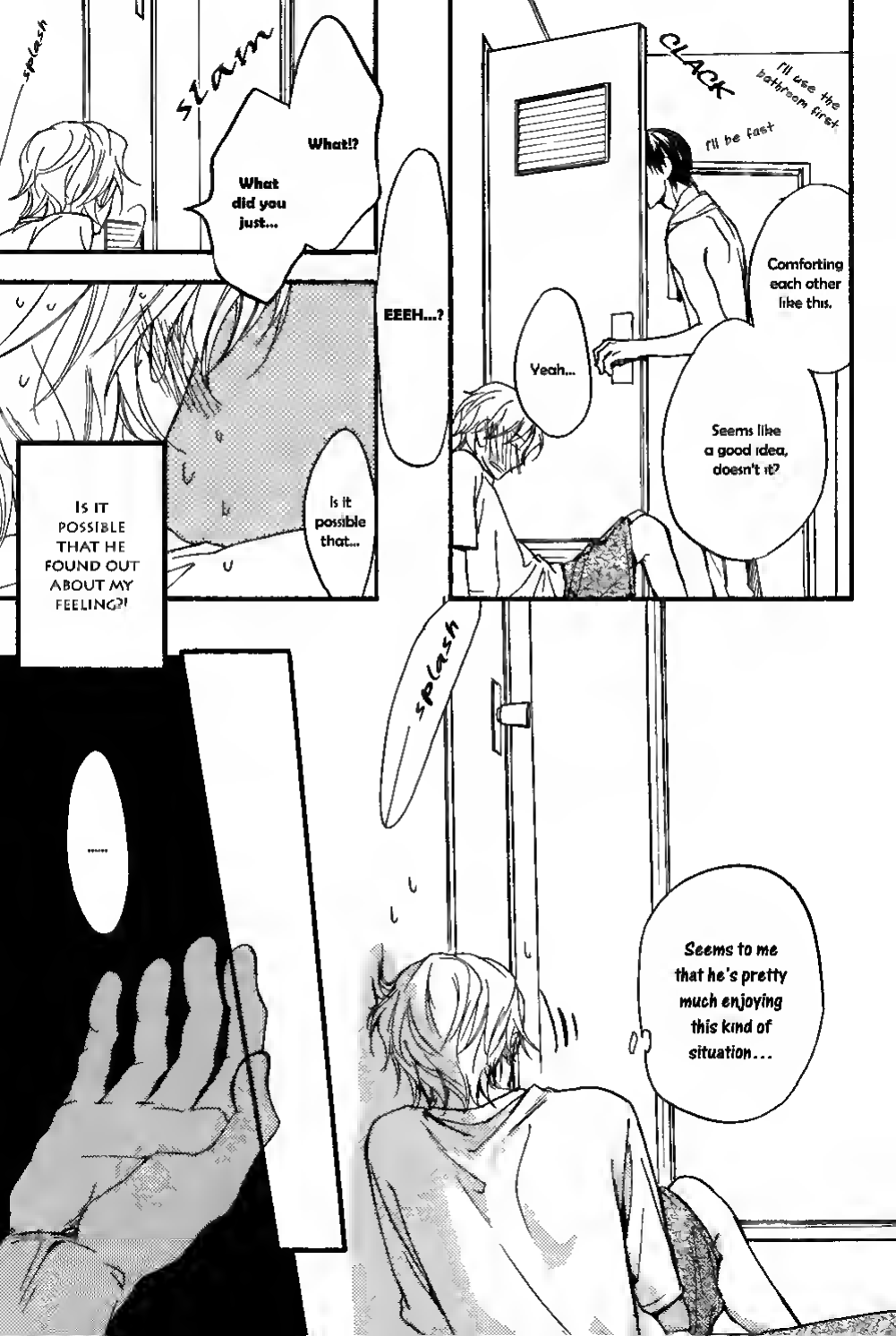
There's one on the top of the laundry
Sorry. Can you get me that towel?
O...
Okay.
I'm home...
thump thump
CREAK
Ah...
You're back? Welcome home.
Want to use the bathroom?
Yeah.
VIVA LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF!!
Viva!!
Usually he changes clothes casually even with me around.
But this is the first time I got to see his p**nis.
Sorry. I thought you'd be back a little later.
Thank you for the service.
Ah.
Don't worry.
GLIDE
Hey
Your towel.
And your clothes too
There's no space for changing clothes, so they usually just close this door and change clothes behind it.
Thank you for what?

GYAA!!
No!! Don't!!
I want to see even more if you're struggling this much.
PULL
Show me yours, too.
Eek!?
Wasn't that your own fault? You're the one...
lean
It's kind of unfair if it's only me who's being watched right?
stare
pull
Ah!
He's laughing!!
from his heart!!
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
Th... That's enough!!
SO EMBA-RASSING ...
If you look any longer...
Hm... it's hard.
Uwaah!!
That's why I told you not to look!
Aaa...
wiggle

HE'LL FIND ME DISGUSTING!!
Shira-ishi...
I will...
You're ...Getting hard.
SLIP
Ah...!!
Waa...
aah...!
haa
Let go... of your hand...
I'm fine. I can take care of it myself.
...Hey.
haa
Won't you touch mine as well?
.....

I... want to touch..
naa
naa
shudder
Aah...
.....!!!
naa
Stroke a little harder.
Okay.
naa
...!!
shudder
shudder
naa
naa
Aa!
I...
squelch
squelch
ビクッ
SHUDDER
jolt

That was a surprise.
I have to take a bath again.
Whew
haa
haa
haa
haa
haa
BLUSH
I've duly passed my common senses meter
Haa
Kanzaki is carefree for weird things
Is...
Is that so?
I feel a bit relieved now
Sorry...
I can't hold it myself.
Oh.
Answering honestly after the stress has been lifted
Wh-when...
When I'm in the toilet for example...
Or when having a bath...
Times like that...
No thank you. You go first.
...Shiraishi,
usually, when do you do it?
Want to take a bath together?


splash
slam
What!?
What did you just...
CLACK
I'll use the bathroom first
I'll be fast
Comforting each other like this.
Yeah...
Seems like a good idea, doesn't it?
EEEH...?
Is it possible that...
Is it possible that he found out about my feeling?!
splash
.....
Seems to me that he's pretty much enjoying this kind of situation...

What's wrong?
Did you hurt your hand?
Staring at his hand
Yeah.
I just didn't know that you could be so cute...
Wha...
What do you mean!?
Hey!! What are you talking about!?
What does that mean!?
squeeze
.....
...!?
RECENTLY, KANZAKI IS ALWAYS IN A GOOD MOOD.
N-no...
No thank you!! You don't have to say anything!!
NEXT TIME
I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT HIS "ULTERIOR MOTIVES".
Somehow I can't come in between the two of them.
I feel like I'm being left out
? ?
If you really want to know, gladly I'll explain it all to you.

HTTP://S1.ZETTO/ INMAKOKU_SCANS/INDEX/

家賃半分の居場所です。

YACHIN HANBUN NO IBASHO DESU.

CHAPTER 1

BY ASOU KAI

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Yachin Hanbun no Ibasho desu.

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Shinmakoku scanlations

http://s1.zetaboards.com/Shinmakoku_Scans/index/

Want to stay in my place?
KANZAKI GAVE ME A CHANCE TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM MY SENPAI.
家賃半分の居場所です。2
A PLACE FOR HALF A RENT . 2

Easy Cooking
Ah, Kanzaki.
We'll soon run out of rice if I'm not mistaken. What we have is only enough for 3 meals.
You're right...
I'll buy it on my way home from college.
Isn't it kind of heavy?
It's alright.
Hey
Are you two living together?
Under one roof?
Are you two dating?
Since when did--
No, we're only...
So what if you're right?
Seriously?

...Yeah.
Though I wish all of that were true.
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS LEAVING MY OLD PLACE AND SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO, KANZAKI OFFERED ME TO STAY AT HIS APARTMENT...
Kanzaki, so you've become a gay too now, huh?
You're right.
Well...
It's clear now that Shiraishi doesn't have any sort of interest in you.
You're at peace now, aren't you, Otobe?
Kanzaki.
He's narrow minded about you. But I think he'll stay quiet if he knows he's safe from you.
WE ARE NOT DATING.
Fuh...
hah
I'm...
I'm coming...
hah
shudder
stroke
spurt
squish
stroke
spurt
squish
spurt
Aah!
BUT
WE'RE DOING THIS KIND OF THING...
spurt
spurt
hah
Me, too...
...!!

Though we never do it all the way through...
Sorry. It got onto your face.
...And your hair.
Go and take a shower.
Okay.
He was the one who suggested doing it once in a while..
Unlike Otobe, Kanzaki doesn't have negative thoughts about gays.
But he's straight. That's why I shouldn't get my hopes too high.
Kanzaki has a lot of energy..
But lately, we're doing this almost everyday...
But we never do it all the way through ..
Two men jerking each other off. Is that normal for a straight guy?
Splash
He seems alright touching me and being touched by me.
That means we're not in some kind of love relationship.
This situation is kind of similar with the time when I was with Senpai...
I'm done.
Click
...
Huh?

What's wrong?
It broke when I touched them.
Something that was on a rabbit's shape—
Ah.
Whew...
It became like this.
I've tried to fix it but it seems I've made it worse.
I'm sorry.
It's alright. After all, I still have many of them.
I'm really sorry.
Really?
Yaur hair has started to curl.
You have a unique hair.
thump
My hair is different from your soft and straight hair.
Yeah.

Let's go to sleep.
Okay...
I'll take the shower later.
Here-
You don't have to push yourself to do everything right like that you know
Just go and sleep Don't wait for me
I'm not pushing myself.
Well... you're right
Yikes. There's only tissues inside the bin.
Bring down the dust bin at the attic, will you?
Ah!
Today is the garbage day.
crunch
I DON'T MIND...
EVEN IF WE CAN NEVER BECOME LOVERS
Crows are pecking at the garbage again. Look at this mess...
I'll help you-
rustle
Morning
Good morning.
Zzz
Huh?
I'm not supposed to have that kind of thought.
When will I ever learn...?
He's already asleep -
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HATE ME FOR BEING GAY...
AS LONG AS YOU LET ME BE BY YOUR SIDE...

WE'RE NOT EVEN LOVERS.
I KNOW HOW PAINFUL IT WILL BE
IF WE WERE GOING TO CONTINUE ON THIS VAGUE RELATIONSHIP.
Kanzaki, are you going to wear that!?
Maybe I should tell him that it won't fit his looks...
420 yen...
I don't know it'd be so cheap
stare
Welcome...
dine done

I want some cigarettes and this one...
Hello.
Senpai...
Are you really not going back even though I ask you to?
Shiraishi
beep
beep
The total is 8520 yen.
Are you on your way to work? It's kind of early for you.
Please don't come here to see me when you're lonely.
Are you not doing well with your current lover?
I won't go back.
Ack!
You pay with 8520 yen right?
Ha ha
Kind of...
SENPAI
HE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY BAD INTENTION IN INVITING ME BACK TO HIS PLACE AND THAT KIND OF TROUBLES ME

I'm sorry.
Yeah, I'll remember that.
I think it's better if you learn how to give up things sometimes.
Well... I should say that to myself, though...
Are you two really dating each other? That wasn't a joke?
Whoa! Why are you getting angry?
Huh?
Isn't that Shiraishi's ex-boyfriend?
I'M SURE IT WAS ALL THANKS TO KANZAKI THAT I WAS ABLE TO DO THAT.
Thank you very much
AT LAST I WAS ABLE TO PUT MY FEELINGS INTO WORDS FOR SENPAI.

I'm home.
I'll put the sodas in the fridge before I forget...
plop
I'm glad I've left senpai's apartment.
Hey... Listen to me...
We did it just yesterday...
Kanzaki...

...Eh?
You don't want to do it...
after you met your "senpai"?
My feelings has nothing to do with senpai.
Actu-ally...
I'm...
I'm simple minded... so if we keep on doing this, I can't help but misunderstand your kindness as something else...
I can't help...
wonting more...
It'll be...
trouble-some for you...
Ah.
Just tell me if you want to have a fresh start with your ex-girlfriend, or when you have a new one...
I'll leave at once.

The two of us in this kind of crampy place. it makes us think about weird things, right?
Huh?
What?
What was that?
.....
It'll be troublesome for me if you don't want me anymore...
Maybe we could go to the amusement park. From there we could relax in a spa and then go to work. What do you say about that?
Next time, let's go out somewhere for a change of atmosphere.
Huh?
Uh... okay.
Can't you just ask someone else to go with you ...?
Kanzaki, you're kind of weird sometimes
Ah!
You said spa?
Naked?
What are you saying?
?

...the lower part, I mean...
You can wear a towel to cover it.
I mean...
It doesn't matter for you I guess...

shock
Uh!!
pull
Does it bother you to have such a pale skin?
blush
If only I have a much better figure...
at least if I have muscles like a man should, I wouldn't be too...
It does bother you huh?
It'll trouble me because you have a manly figure...
Oh, I almost forgot.
I broke one of yours.
I can't have any peace of mind until I do something about it.
You don't have to do this, you know.
It isn't a rabbit pattern, though.
It took me quite some time to decide which one to buy.
Wow... you bought two of them.
These are so cute...
Thank you.
I'll treasure them

YOU DON'T USUALLY SMILE, DO YOU? AND WHY ARE YOU NOW SMILING LIKE THAT TO ME?
thump
That's cheating!
A man who can't show his happy feelings on his face.
I'm glad I bought them.
Huh?
That conversation and this one are two different things...
It's settled then. We're going out at the next chance.
ゲート
Sorry. I had something to settle beforehand.
It's al-right...
Somehow, meeting up in a place like this feels like a date, don't you think?
That's impossible, though...
Yeah, you're right.
Eeh!?
But I thought you'd say something to deny it.
You said it yourself, didn't you? Don't get surprised by your own words.
Let's go
Okay

Some-how...
Some-how I feel...
tap
tap
The pin.
You're not wearing them?
tap
Ah!
It's kind of unworthy of me to wear them.
Oh... It's not like they'll wear off if you use them...
I'll be sad if I lose them or break them accidentally.
Are you talking about your rabbit pin? Does it bother you that much?
No. I'm not talking about that.
Really?
Really!
Really...
Well
Only a little...
See?
Kanzaki is teasing me...

sfx: a lot of screaming noises
having fun
I'm going to dieeeeeee~
Urgh"
That sounds like fun.
My stomach is dancing...
My knees are shaking...
My eyes are rolling...
WOBBLE
U-uuh...
I didn't know we're going to ride it over and over...
Here, drink this
Thank you
Sit there
You can just tell me if you don't like the extreme rides...
OR TO BE MORE EXACT, I WAS TOO EXCITED TO REALIZE...

Are you alright?
Yeah, I'll be fine after I rest for a while.
I can lend you my shoulder if you need it.
Huh?
Kanzaki, is that you?
Enough!!
Or do you prefer to sleep on my lap?
Kanzaki, people are watching us!
UWAAH

pull
Dating.
It's really you.
We've just finished having spa treatments and came here to play~
What a coincidence. What are you doing here?
raise
Kanzaki. I don't remember you being the type of person who likes to tell jokes...
Well
The girl's right...
Hey, why don't you two try to have a fresh start?
Yumi!

Whether she regrets it or not, that's her own choice. It has nothing to do with me.
Kanzaki's ex girlfriend
Is it alright for me to keep on listening to their conversation?
That necklace
your new boyfriend gave it to you, right?
No, thank you.
After all, it was her who cheated on me.
True... but Mina...
She regrets everything she did to you.
Maybe I should wear them after all...
Hmm...
"UNWORTHY OF ME"
Ah.
No, it wasn't anything like that. I still treasure the one you gave me.
It's kind of unworthy of me to wear it, so I just keep it somewhere safe.
THOUGH THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...

Ah?
Hey, you're saying that just because you don't want to go to the spa, am I correct?
Don't run away!
Well... you're right about that, too...
You can go and have some fun with them.
I'm still kind of dizzy, so I'll just go back and have a rest at home.
Am I...
BEING A BOTHER HERE...?
Ka...
Kanzaki.
grab
Are you alright?
My legs...
STAGGER
IT WILL LOOK MORE NATURAL IN PEOPLE'S EYES IF THE GIRL WALKS BY HIS SIDE RATHER THAN ME.

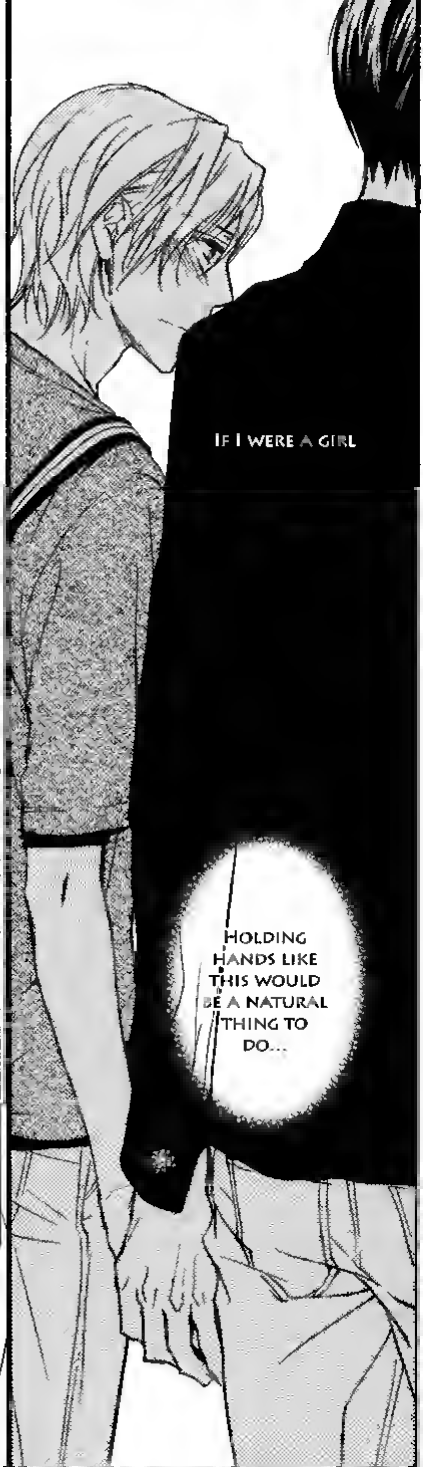
I KNOW THAT ALREADY BUT STILL...
SUCH A FOOL OF ME
I'm fine.
See you then!
Let's go home
grip
Ka...
Kan-zaki...
pull
Hey, Kanzaki...
Bye!
Huh?
@?cm!

thump
thump
thump
thump
wiggle
wiggle
.....
Hey... my hand...

No, it's alright.
Thanks to that, I don't have to go to the spa.
Sorry about that.

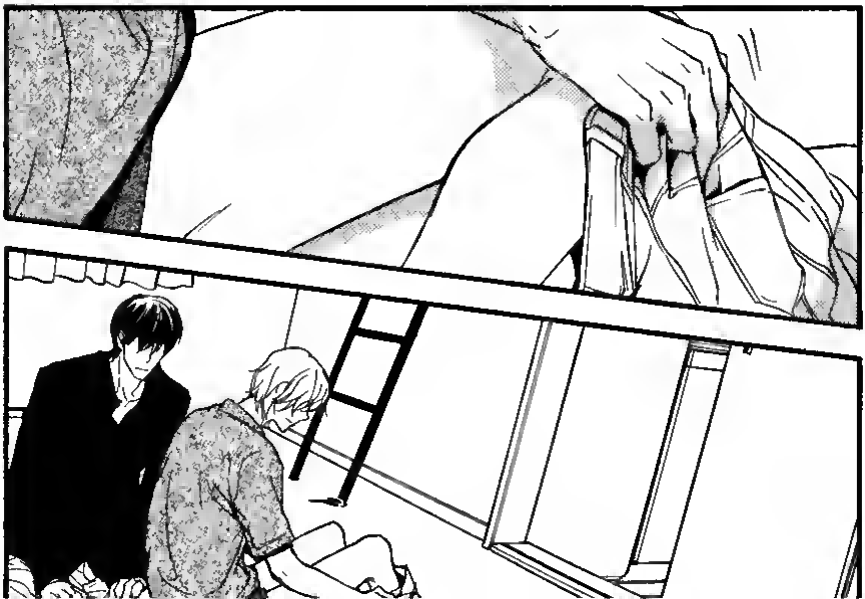
It's been a long time since I have this kind of thought...
TODAY...
I WISH...
I WERE A GIRL...
IF I WERE A GIRL, THEN WHAT HAS HAPPENED JUST NOW...

DOES HE FORGET THAT HE'S STILL HOLDING MY HAND?



grab
...!!
Kanzaki?
You don't want it?
thud
Kon...
ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...

press
shudder
.....!!
Ah...
hah
hah
...Nn...
.....!!
hah



Shiraishi
I'm fine.
It's not my first time, remember?
.....
I'm sorry.

I'll take the shower first okay?
Okay.
I'M sorry, you said?
splash

WHY DID YOU...
MAKE LOVE TO ME?
TO YOU
AM I THE GIRL'S SUBSTITUTE?
flop
splash
COMFORT ME...
It was the same with senpai...
..It doesn't really matter to me, though...
so

I'M SORRY.
IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR ME
TO STAY HERE?
OR MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I LEAVE?
Shiraishi...
I think it's better for you to go back to your house.
It becomes awkward somehow...
clatter

gulp
...Yeah.
I know
I mean... You can do it anytime you want. Not too soon maybe...
You said you're still in contact with your mother. You can ask her to prepare everything for you.
You better bring all your clothes here before it gets too cold for you.
You can stay here as long as you want. I'll keep you company for that long.
You're going to live here, right? You have to prepare yourself for that, too.

You helped her clean the garbage, didn't you? She's the landlady I'm talking about.
I've talked to the landlady about you. She said it's fine if you want to stay here with me
Hey
You don't have to do this just out of responsibility about what happened just now, you know?
IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME TO KNOW THAT YOU THINK OF ME THAT MUCH...
...Really?
This morning?
Oh.
"SORRY I HAVE SOMETHING TO SETTLE BEFOREHAND."
So that was why he apologized...
"I'M SORRY."
Sorry...
And...
About what happened today... I'm sorry I forced myself onto you.
huhu
It bothers him a lot that I am still not wearing those pins
...
Wear the pins I gave you.
There are more?
And...
I think it's better if you have some confidence in yourself.

STARTING TODAY
I FEEL THAT KANZAKI'S APARTMENT HAS SOMEHOW BECOME MINE, TOO.
Okay.
Kanzaki!
Ah!
I don't need them...
Huh?
...I don't want them.
This is a limited edition cola flavor pudding. Can we buy it?
They're really dating!!
Gah! I feel alienated again...
AND WE MADE A PROMISE TO GO OUT TOGETHER AGAIN NEXT TIME. NOT ON A DATE, BUT TO BUY FUTON

Yachin Hanbun no Ibasho desu.

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Shinmakoku Scanlations

A PLACE FOR HALF A RENT . 3

家賃半分の居場所です。3

clack
I'm home.
Maybe we can be together like this because he has that kind of thought.
Though I think, it'll be better for him to have a girl staying next to him.
Is it really okay to have me beside you instead of a girl?
stare
Ah!
He's awake...!
slump
He fell asleep while working on his paper, huh...

Welcome home.
Yeah...
thump
Uwah!
Ka...
Kanzaki?
But now, somehow, it makes me feel safe.
I like it because it makes us feel like a couple.
So
At first, every time he did this to me, I got so nervous that I couldn't sleep.
Is he.. half asleep?
.....

My hand is still numb.
Ah...
slip
But still .....
My heart is beating like crazy... I can't sleep...
So you were really half asleep huh?
...Just a while ago.
And by the way, when did you get home? Welcome home...
No, it's not your fault...
You didn't even use a pillow...
I was careless to fall asleep like that.
I'm...
I'm sorry. If only I gave a thought to where I sleep, this wouldn't happen.
I have hidden the things I don't want you to see, so it's no problem.
You mustn't see them at any cost.
Okay.
Hide them well then...
Not only books. You are free to use everything in this apartment.
Go ahead.
Ah!
Just remembered.
Can I borrow this book?
Uwah!
Scatter
Here...
I want to borrow...
This one.

Sorry...
These photos...
Huh? This girl... this is the girl we met before...
I didn't see her face well, so I'm not too sure about it.
But these photos... look like they are well kept.
Kanzaki looks younger...
So that's where I put those photos.
You can throw them away.
..... Um-

I don't intend to look at them again in the future, so you don't have to worry.
I forgot those photos still exist.
Kan...
grab
What?
But...
throw
Did he do that because he didn't want the photos to hurt my feelings?
Hm... my hand is still numb..
scribble
scribble
I'll make them. Just continue on writing your report.
Din-ner...!
Fried rice is okay with you?
Yeah, thanks!
SOME-HOW...
WHAT WOULD I DO IF HE STILL HOLDS FEELINGS FOR HIS FORMER GIRLFRIEND?

I FEEL GUILTY...
Is it really okay for me to stay by his side...?
I'll take the photos out of the garbage bin and put them back into the book without him knowing
Hey–
Are you two really dating?
Huh?
stare
I still can't believe that you two...
Uhm...
Make it clear to me, or else I'll feel even worse.

Which one of you confessed first? Was it you?
I'm safe.
Otobe is kind of easy to read...
relief
Ooh... Really?
Um... he really is persistent...
Y-Yeah...
"He won't complain if he doesn't feel any threat to himself."
I want to have a serious relationship with you.
Want to stay in my place?
Uhm...
Hey!
thud
And worse than that... He always looks like he hates humans!
Really!? That's so unbelievable!! I can't imagine him saying those embarrassing words!
...Kanzaki did. maybe...
Are you going to have a break forever? Help me arrange those magazines.
chomp
You want to see my skinship with humans? In the form of a kiss, I mean...
Owww!
grip
shock
Ah... I'll do it.
Kanzaki...?

Our relationship began from having sex...
He said he wants to go out with me. Maybe he said that out of guilt? Responsibility?
thud
When I think about it...
He never says that he likes me or something even close to that.
Here
I'll pass them to you so you can arrange them on the shelves.
Okay
And those photos, too...
It's enough for me
To have him care about me.
Hey! Here's another one.
Kanzaki... what exactly do you have in your mind?
Okay.
What is it?
Looks like you and Otobe are getting close, huh?
Really?
thud
stare

Actually...
If that's true, then I'm sure it's all thanks to you.
It kind of irritates me...
thump
.....
Is he in a bad mood?
So
Good morning.
Morning.
Hey.
I want to buy that magazine. What a coincidence.
Oh...
DING DONG
Did I... do something wrong?
Welcome...
Hello!
Senpai...

What is it?
I'm here to buy things. Do you have anything against it?
Oh, I didn't mean...
Though there are other stores on his way to work...
Actually...
You don't send me mails so I have to come all the way here...
I have another purpose for being here.
I've been thinking about many things lately.
This is the third time I'm asking you.
Are you serious about not going back to my place again?

Please come to the cashier
That's an open war huh?
take
You don't have to answer right now.
Call me if you have free time, so we can have a proper talk.

Ah...
About that...
I'm...
CAN I TELL HIM THAT RIGHT NOW KANZAKI AND I ARE DATING? CAN I USE THAT EXCUSE?

Wow...
That was a surprise.
It'll be crowded soon. We have to arrange these things quickly.
Pants

Oh.
I'm sorry.

At first, it was because I don't get along well with senpai...
Even though he said he wants to go out with me,
it's not like our feelings are mutual.
Lately I don't see Kanzaki's smiling face...
It makes me worry not knowing whether it's really the best for him to have me by his side or not.
What is he thinking about?
Today he's more silent than he usually is.

IF ONLY...
HE WOULD HOLD MY HAND LIKE THAT TIME, IT'LL LESSEN MY INSECURITY... BUT...
SHOULD I KEEP ON FOLLOWING HIM AND GO BACK TO HIS APARTMENT?
NOW...

Okay.
I'll prepare the futon.
We're home.
I'll change the sheets and have it washed today.
flop
"Call me!"
Ah..
flap
ring

I'm happy living together with Kanzaki.
Though maybe he doesn't feel the same way about being with me.
Back then
I thought, whoever it is, it doesn't matter to me, as long as hes willing to stay by my side.
plop
But right now, I cannot accept anyone...
Only Kanzaki...
But ..
If it'll only bring him troubles ..

clack
I'm getting it ready right now.
Hey.
shock
grab
Did you just call him?
...No I haven't... contacted him yet.
OR SHOULD I SAY NO?
SHOULD I ANSWER YES TO THAT QUESTION?
grip

sigh
Please... No...
thump
You're not lying to me?
Really?
Thank goodness.
You mustn't go back to him no matter what.

Huh?
Excuse me?!
What?
squeeze
Don't go.
SO IT'S REALLY OKAY FOR ME..
TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE
Ack!
I've just changed this sheet...
Well... I don't think that matters anymore
Ah!
Sorry.
I feel...
somewhat happy and relieved, so...

It was because you distanced yourself from me suddenly, as if you were going away.
It bothered me a lot
You find our relationship isn't as fun as you think so you want to end it or something like that...
I must have been bothering you a lot... I thought...
Lately you always seem to be in a bad mood.
SOB
Here, use the tissue.
BLOW
That was indeed my fault.
And also... You said, as long as anyone's willing to have sex with you, you're fine with anyone.
Actually, I wanted to wait until you like me.
But I lost control of myself...
I feel insecure about this relationship, and at such situation, seeing you together with someone else...
I worry more and more...
Oh...
You mean with Otobe, too?
With Otobe, too, yes.
I feel so lame right now...
Don't look at me
push away

This is the first time i have this kind of feeling...
I...
I won't call him either
I won't go back to my senpai.
...I'm glad if you won't.
Kanzaki...
He feels insecure, too...?
Oh... But I have to call him at least once. To tell him that I won't be seeing him again.
If I only send him a mail... I think he'll keep sending me mails to invite me out
Just ignore him. Delete his number from your phone memory.
I'll deal with him if he come to the store.
Oh, you can't do that
He's a customer, remember?

He's so stubborn.
He deserves to be kicked out from the store.
I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER FIND SOMEONE WHO REALLY LOVES ME.
Kanzaki...
SOMEHOW...
I THINK I HAVE TO LET ALL MY FEELINGS OUT TO HIM LIKE HE JUST DID TO ME

I am...
in love with you.
Kan...
grab
Uwah!
thud
.....

Prepare yourself to skip all your classes for today.
"I can't control myself", haven't I?
I've told you
Eeh...
W-What!?
You should try it.
It looks easy, you know.
huh
It's quite delicious I think
I watched the TV program when they used softdrinks to make sukiyaki.
Shiraishi. You like soft drinks, right?
Yeah.
After that, our frequency of sex has increased... a lot.
WOBBLE
FOR SOME REASON, OTOBE HAS LET HIS GUARD DOWN AROUND ME
WHEN I OFFER THE IDEA OF HAVING SUKIYAKI AS DINNER, KANZAKI REJECTS IT INSTANTLY
stare
Huh?
I feel a chill down my spine. Is there a murderous intent released towards me?
Shiver
I don't know if Kanzaki would agree to that idea. Moreover, I have no money to buy the ingredients...
END

"Want to stay in my place?". Started by that one sentence, the unfriendly (?) but reliable Kanzaki...
Unfriendly...
Maybe it's better if I keep this away from him...
What is it?
ACK!
.....
.....
.....
.....
That's quite true.
What!?
You admit it?
Oh hey! What were you thinking just now? You left an interval there!
...Many things.
HE'S INDEED UN-FRIENDLY!!

The Attic bump

Kanzaki bumps his head on it often.

Still, expressionless.

By the way... The apartment room above ours is kind of quiet, don't you think?
They moved out just recently.
I see...
When we are having sex.
Surprisingly, the walls here are very thin, so you can hear things from the adjoining apartments
That's why, from now on, you don't have to hold down your voice anymore.
Huh?
WHAT!?
You should be worried about that, too!
It's kind of too late to worry about that now.
WHAT!?
So all those times, they heard us doing it!?
Maybe that's the reason they moved out!!
This part is usually blown away by the wind, so he holds them in place with hairpins.
END

I'm Serious in My Own Way

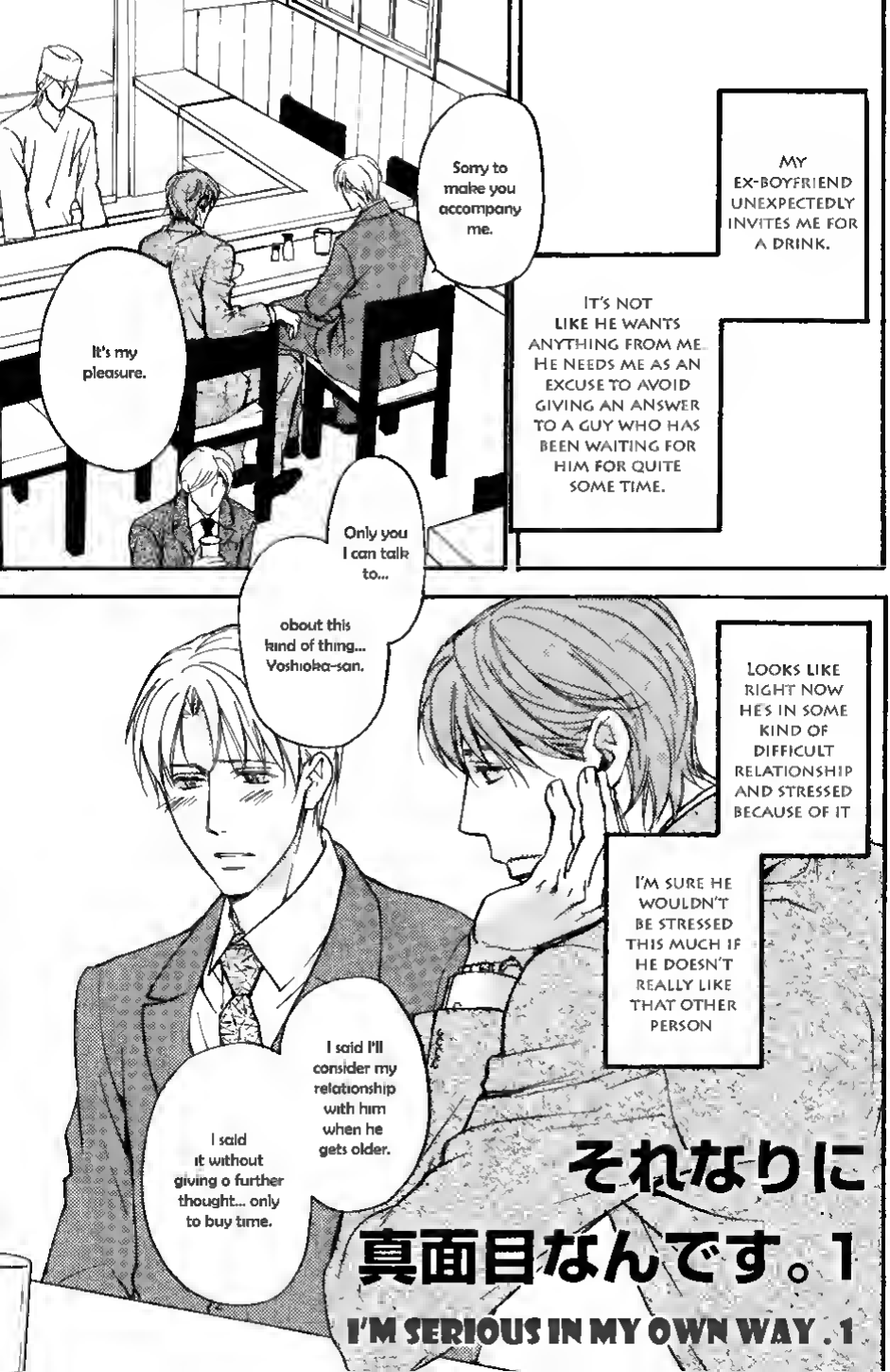
Chapter 1 by Asou Kai

(including 1: Yuuki Hanbun no Hanbun desu. manga)

Conrad Weller Murata Ken / Translator - tsukippon /

Proofreader Murata Ken Editor Conrad Weller - Saralegui

Scanlations http://slzelaboo.d om/Shinmakoku_Scans/ ndex/


Sorry to make you accompany me.
It's my pleasure.
My ex-boyfriend unexpectedly invites me for a drink.
It's not like he wants anything from me. He needs me as an excuse to avoid giving an answer to a guy who has been waiting for him for quite some time.
Only you I can talk to...
about this kind of thing... Yoshioka-san.
Looks like right now he's in some kind of difficult relationship and stressed because of it
I'm sure he wouldn't be stressed this much if he doesn't really like that other person
I said I'll consider my relationship with him when he gets older.
I said it without giving o further thought... only to buy time.
それなりに真面目なんです。1
I'M SERIOUS IN MY OWN WAY . 1

I don't want to! That's why I invited you for a drink!
I see...
Don't you have to hurry and get home fast?
Today is the promised day, right?
.....
...and Keigo-kun keeps his promise, huh?
He's known me for ages. If I tell a lie, he'll know right away.
Don't say it like everything will work fine, okay!
You can come out with one or two excuses. For example, you can tell him that you're in love with someone else. Or that you already have a boyfriend. Anything...
Don't say it like it's the truth. It annoys me...!
Alright then, tell him that you're coming back to me. That'll be fine, too.

You've made me cry countless times.
I don't have the slightest intention to come back to you.
...I'm different now.
I won't cheat on you again. I think...
You 'think'?
hah

Despite the fact that we broke up because I had an affair,
I've never wanted to make him cry.
Even now, he's never truly forgive me for what I did to him.
SORRY...
WHY...
YOU HAVE ME, AND YET YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH ANOTHER GUY

If only we're not working at the same company and moreover... in the same department!!
We meet everyday. It becomes nothing special, right?
More important...
The important thing now, is to figure out what I should tell Keigo!
So I'm less important to you, now?

Sometimes I pray
...that he doesn't like me anymore. It would be better for both of us.
Yoshioka-san, whose side are you on, really?
He puts his best efforts in hope that you'll like him in return. With all that, do you think he'd give up on you easily?
He goes to your room every day without even trying to push you for an answer.
He even changes his hair style to your liking.
He cooked for you and cleaned up your room, right?
Still..
But... he's younger than me.
.....
Stop making lame excuses.
But... You two aren't related by blood, remember?
He's your brother-in-law's son from his previous marriage.
He's my sister's son...

No more buts!
But...
The most important thing is, how do you feel about him.
That's what he wants to know and the reason why he waits for you all this time.
THAT IS THE EXPRESSION HE ALWAYS HAD WHEN HE WAS WITH ME...
SIMPLY BY WATCHING HIS FACE LIKE THIS, I'M SURE I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.
BUT THE PERSON HIMSELF CAN'T SEEM TO REALISE HIS FEELINGS YET.
Hey. If you're not going home, why don't you go to my apartment instead?
CREAK
A-ah... Why do I have to do something that only demerits me?
I reap what I sow, I guess...

Welcome...
Oh my...
Keigo...
Why are you...
So, you do remember
Is that why you're avoiding me?
Oh, I remember!
From today on, you're old enough to drink alcohol, right?
Don't you want to join us? Let's have a celebration.
I can read more or less what's going on in your mind.
Let's go home and talk it over.

.....
slam
That's the difference between me and Keigo. Maybe that's why, he is a better man for Yukito than me.
If it were me, I would have used the alcohol to seduce him.
Let's go home and have a talk.
I don't want you to get drunk and use your situation as an excuse.
Straight-forward? Not sure if that is the right word to describe him.
We'll be leaving now. Excuse us.
Hey! Wait! Don't decide it by yourself!
I didn't drink that much!!
This is Yukito-san's share.
grab

Yoshioka-san. Isn't it the right time for you to give up now?
clink
There. On me.
Thank you for cheering me up all the time, Oozawa-kun
Close Friends
It's good to be young, huh
BAM
I've given up on Yukito quite a long time ago. But I can't help feeling jealous now
I think I might fall in love with you, Oozawa-kun.
Yoshioka-san...
Keep on looking only at a person like Keigo isn't that bad, I think
In the end, people are hard to change, huh
Not a chance!
Let go of my hand!
Oh, you think so, too?
You got dumped because of that personality of yours, you know?
Who'd ever thought that your name is Seiji which means loyalty.

I'm Serious in My Own Way

Chapter 2 by Asou Kei

(inclusive of Yuushi Hanbu no Ikenbo desu, sorenga)

Conrad Weller Murata Ken / Translator - tsukippon /

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Yaoi Shinmakoku Translations http://s1.zetaboard.com/Shinmakoku_Scans/index/

それなりに真面目なんです。2
I'M SERIOUS IN MY OWN WAY . 2

MY LOVE LIFE THAT WENT WELL FOR THE FIRST TIME FACED AN END WITH MY BOYFRIEND CHEATING ON ME
THE HAPPINESS AND TRANQUILITY I HAD FOR THOSE COUPLE OF MONTHS COLLAPSED INTO NOTHING IN ONE DAY.
HOW-EVER...
Would you mind not talking about all that rubbish anymore and get to work now, Yoshi-aka-san.
It's all my fault. I'm so sorry. I promise I won't do it again. Let's make up, ok?
BENDING
attacking the pinky
You're annoying me.
Hey... don't you think it's about time we...
OW OW OW...
You'll snap my finger if you bend it that way... Yukito-kun.
.....
Ha ha ha
Youngsters are supposed to act nice to each other
Super Visor
WE WORK AT THE SAME COMPANY, IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT, AND SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER. WE CAN'T HELP SEEING EACH OTHER'S FACES EVERYDAY.

I'm home.
You come again.
EVEN WHEN I COME HOME AFTER WORK, I STILL HAVE ONE TINY PROBLEM I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT.
I can't tell whether he really does feel sorry for what he's done or not.
click
Yukito-san. Welcome home.
THAT IS THIS GUY... UTSUI KEIGO, 19 YEARS OLD.
Do you want to have dinner now?
I brought the meals Aki-san made for you.
Yeah.
FOR THE REASON NOT WANTING TO DISTURB HIS FATHER'S NEW MARRIAGE LIFE, HE'S DECIDED TO LIVE BY HIMSELF.
He cook this himself.
Itadakimasu
Well, it's convenient for me if someone prepares my dinner.
Are you going to do your part time job at the convenience store until morning too, today?
Yes.
MY SISTER'S HUSBAND HAS A SON FROM HIS PREVIOUS MARRIAGE. COINCIDENTALLY HE LIVES NEARBY, SO HE COMES HERE ALMOST EVERYDAY.
My sister

We don't speak much. He just spends his time here not doing anything particular, and then goes off to work.
Though strangely, I feel at ease when he's around.
It's not like he's attached to me or anything.
Hey...
flip
ACK!?
The bath is ready.
ringing
Huh?
You got rice on your face
rub
Thanks!
You're reading it, too? I'll leave it here if you want to.
Is that the continuation of last week's edition?
He even remembers my bathing schedule!!
.....
If there's any tv program you want to see, I'll tape them for you. Just relax and take your bath.

splash
And above all, he's being so polite to me.
SOME-HOW
HE'S INVADING INTO MY PRIVATE LIFE MORE AND MORE...
Though I think it would be better for him if he spends more time hanging out with his friends than taking care of me.
Well, he doesn't know I'm gay. I think that's the reason why he goes into and out of my apartment so easily.
My sister must be worried about that, too...
clack
knock
knock
knock
Yukita-san.
Yes?
Ah!
I forgot to bring some clothes.
Your step-son, you mean?
DON'T YOU DARE LAY A FINGER ON MY SON!!
Get up
DON'T WORRY. HE'S 7 YEARS YOUNGER. I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN YOUNGER GUYS.
Really
The one who under-stands him the most in his family

He went as far as taking care of my laundry, too?
And he ironed them neatly, too!
creak
Your clothes. You forgot.
I picked them at random, sorry...
Ack!
Thank you.
.....
What is it?
Wha...
Yukito-san.
You broke up with your lover just recently, right?
Did I say anything about that to him?
Your lover...
is a man?
...huh?

I'm just wondering...
Would you consider me as a condidate for your next lover?
Why do I have the feeling that with my current state, this conversation is kind of dangerous for me?
Uhm...
Suddenly have the urge to cover up his body
I want you to fall in love with me.
Is he serious? Or angry? Or just bashful?
His expression is unreadable.

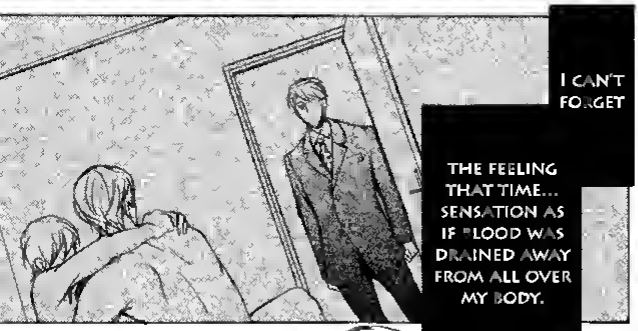
sigh
GIVEN MY AGE NOW, IT HAS NEVER OCCURRED TO ME EVEN ONCE THAT A TEENAGE KID WOULD CONFESS TO ME.
Sister... I'm in a big trouble now...
I couldn't sleep last night.

whack
ALRIGHT...
I'LL BE 20 SOON PLEASE THINK IT OVER UNTIL THE TIME COMES

EVEN THOUGH I'M GAY, I'M NOT THAT LOW TO LAY MY HANDS ON A MINOR LIKE YOU
And guys with long hair like you aren't my type after all.
At his current situation, the reasoning is not too convincing

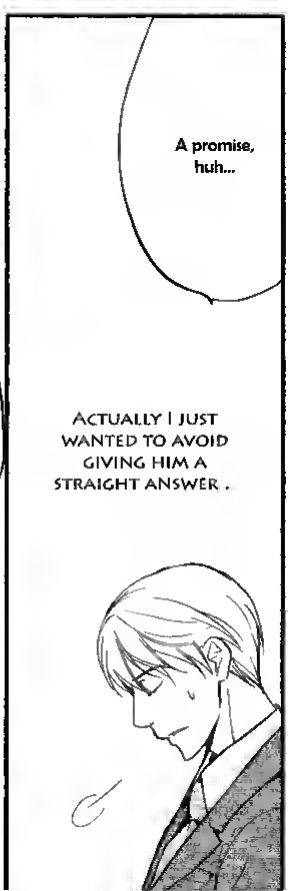
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

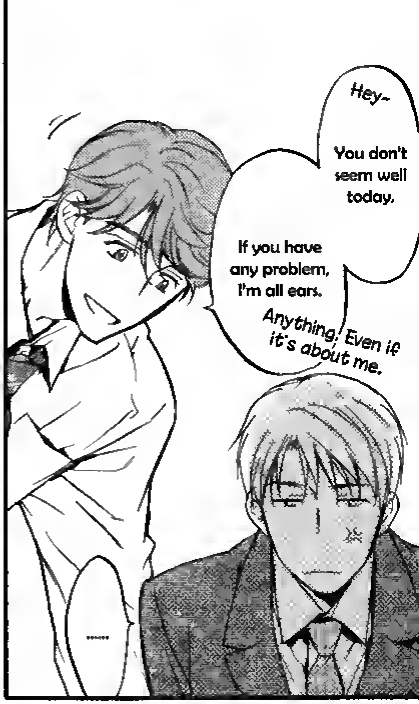
UNTIL THEN, I WON'T DO ANYTHING I PROMISE


I CAN'T FORGET
THE FEELING THAT TIME... SENSATION AS IF BLOOD WAS DRAINED AWAY FROM ALL OVER MY BODY.

I can stop by for a drink after work. Then I'll be home late so I don't have to meet him...
At least today

Aw... I made a mistake again!
I'VE BECOME A WORSE COWARD THAN I USED TO BE...


A promise, huh...
ACTUALLY I JUST WANTED TO AVOID GIVING HIM A STRAIGHT ANSWER.

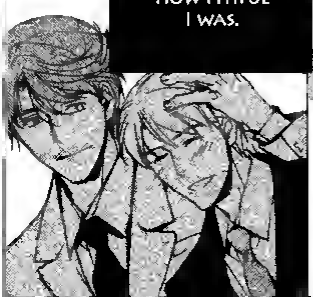


It maddens me that he still talks to me so casually when he knows nothing about my problem.

TN : This is a spinoff of Kuroshitsuji

That time I was so happy I couldn't see what happened around me. Now, I realised how pitiful I was.

It makes me realise painfully that it's me who's still hooked up with the past.



SHIBATA WOULD YOU FORGIVE YOUR LOVER IF HE'S CHEATING ON YOU?
IT WAS A QUESTION ASKED TO ME BY A GUY I ONE-SIDEDLY LOVED BACK THEN.
YEAH...
I'LL FORGIVE HIM,
I THINK.
R-REALLY?
OH
IT'S QUITE AN UNEXPECTED ANSWER FROM A SERIOUS GUY LIKE YOU.
I REMEMBER MY ANSWER WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
AT THIS KIND OF SITUATION, DRINKING A LOT AND THEN HAVING A GOOD SLEEP WILL CURE EVERYTHING.
creak
AT THAT TIME, I WAS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE ASKED ME THAT QUESTION BY EXAMINING HIS FACIAL EXPRESSION.
SO WHY DID I GIVE HIM THAT KIND OF REPLY?
Though what I did is exactly the opposite of my answer back then.

Huh?
Welcome-
Keigo?
Why are you here?
You're working at the convenience store, aren't you?
.....
I also work here sometimes.
I've known you long before Aki-san introduced us.
I don't think you noticed me when you came here before.
I'm just a temporary worker.

Ah?
Welcome--
It's been a long time, huh?
When did you become familiar with Utsui-kun?
Familiar?
Well we're...
Excuse me...
Yes. Be right there.
clatter
YUKITO-SAN.
YOU BROKE UP WITH YOUR LOVER JUST RECENTLY, RIGHT?
I ALSO WORK HERE SOMETIMES.
blush
He watched me all this time. That's how he knew.
I did come here for a drink whenever I'm in a mess.

Then again, I think it's better for me not knowing what he's thinking about...
Ack! He's looking at me.
glance over
Keigo's face is always without expression. How would I know what's in his mind?
He's always...
I always sit here at the counter. That's why I failed to notice him whenever I'm here.
Though he could always look at my direction
He knows I'm in a relationship just by watching?
I should be more careful from now on...
Though it doesn't really matter anymore now...
CREAK

Please don't take the seat next to me.
Drinking on your way home? That's rare.
YOSHIOKA-SAN IS HERE, TOO!?

clatter
What...?
Hey!
I said don't sit there!

KEIGO... WATCHING ME IN THIS SITUATION... I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FACE YOU'RE HAVING RIGHT NOW...
SOME-HOW...
I'M TOO SCARED TO TURN AROUND AND FIND OUT
.....
Today is the worst...

It's not like you.
Haven't you drunk too much already?
One more glass for me, please.
clink
.....
But I I'M not drunk yet...
...I'll just go home then.
Okay.
I'll take you home.
.. hey.
Why can't I get drunk at all?
No need!
.....
Have some responsibility and take him home straight-away.
This is your chance to show off your kindness.
I can go home on my own!
struggle
You can't even stand straight.
...Watch out!
wobble

chatter
chatter
Thank you for coming!!
SOMETIMES I HAVE THIS THOUGHT.
I am fine
He's working now. It'll be impossible for him to run after me..
How's your feeling? Tell me if you want to throw up.

If only I could turn a blind eye to his betrayal, maybe right now, I would still have my happy life...
Yoshioka-san
pull
Hey...
Are you sure you won't come back to me?
He always talks to me with his calm and sweet voice.
But now...
It only gives me uncertainty. Makes me question whether he'll stay true to his words or not.
At first, that's what made me fall for him
I won't cheat on you again
I promise.
shudder
I'm scared
We're here.
..promise, huh..
I won't do anything I promise.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T LET MYSELF BE BLOWN AWAY BY HIS WORDS...
Yoshioka-san...
I...
Your apartment is number 504, right?
.....
...you don't want to invite me in?
Yukito-san!

Pant
Pant
Pant
Thank you for bringing him home.
I can take care from here.
Take care of me?
I'm not a kid, you know.
It's true that you're taking care of me... but...
YOSHIOKA-SAN SMILES LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES
AND THEN WITHDREW HIMSELF QUICKLY AND WENT AWAY.
See you tomorrow at the office!
I really can't tell whether he's serious or not...

flomp
Having calmed down a bit...
now I feel extremely tired.
Your hair...
You had it cut?
Please, don't laugh.
Ha Ha
Ha Ha
You said ...
You like short hair better.
I don't really like long hair anyway. But I didn't cut it just because it's too much of a hassle
I'll bring you some water.
I'm fine.
Just stay here for a while.
JUST LIKE YOSHIOKA-SAN I CAN'T READ KEIGO'S FEELINGS FROM HIS EXPRESSIONS, EITHER
BUT UNLIKE YOSHIOKA-SAN, I CAN BE AT EASE WHENEVER I'M WITH KEIGO.

I definitely can't tell my sister about this, though...

That I'm relieved Keigo is here with me

For having even a bit of that thought in my mind...

It's been a while since I feel someone's warmth by my side.

jolt
!!
.....
Good morning...
—morning!
I'll make you breakfast. In the meantime, you can take a shower.
Yeah.
hide
TH-THIS SENSATION IS—
ACK!!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I HAVE THAT KIND OF WEIRD DREAM...
SOMETHING I HAVEN'T HAD SINCE I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL!!
uwaah
I pray Keigo didn't know about this...
How shameful... I feel as if I've committed a serious crime...

After that night, Keigo keeps on going into and out of my apartment as he always does.

Welcome home.

I'm back.

I do mind!!

Just shut up and help me!

Chuckle

I don't mind if we share the same bed, though.

I won't do anything to you.

END

Don't Be So Strict

[Yachin Hanbun ni Shite desu] Ch.6 by Asou Kai

DON'T BE SO STRICT
少しゆるめでも

Fried Noodle
Sssssss
Clack
Oh
Fried noodle?
Let me have some...
No way. "Some" for you means more than half, right?
You just got your paycheck a week ago...
I gave you ten thousand for your living expenses which supposed to last until my payday the day after tomorrow.
Though I took only six thousand for my own living expenses.
Kei-chan, 28 years old He's 4 years younger than me and currently is unemployed.
You're broke, but you still bought so many packs of cigarettes!?
He doesn't have any money and can't live by his own A good-for-nothing man
Haht!?
What did you use it for?
You what!?
Megumu-kun~~~
Actu-ally...
I've spent almost all the money you gave me.

WE'VE BEEN IN THIS RELATIONSHIP FOR NEARLY 3 YEARS.
Megumu...
Where's my shirt?
Sheesh.
In the end, I have to share this noodle for two...
PLOP
Check the laundry basket in front of the TV.
And while on it, help fold all the laundry, would you?
Oh- Found it.
What?
Who gave you that scar!?
Kei-chan
...that scar on your back...
.....Oh.

I can't believe you!!
Re...
Really...?
I'll die if you keep on strangling me...
strangle
The last time, you were doing me from the back! I remember because I couldn't touch you!
...this scar is from when you...
Don't lie to me!!
How many times already...?
You promised you wouldn't do it again.
Megumu...
HE LIKES HAVING AFFAIRS.
glare
ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM, BESIDES THAT HE CAN'T BE INDEPENDENT AT ALL... IS...
Sorry.
I won't do it again. I give you my word
Uh...
Well...
It's just a small affair...
Really.
You're always my number one...
So, you admit that you've cheated again...

clench
Enough!!
I don't care about you anymore!!
Hey!
Oh well...
Guess he runs over to Shiba's home again.

BEEP
click click click
beep
slump
There. Sent it.
Judging from his temper, I don't think he will answer my call.
Nevertheless, I have to mail him and tell him how sorry I am
Huh?
At least bring your wallet or your cell phone with you...
He split the noodle into two portions...
Can't you see that I'm with a patient now!?
Don't just barge in!!
Listen to me!!
SLAM
Shiba!!
Orthopedic Clinic
SHIBA

drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
...fighting again?
Ok. Just go upstairs and wait for me there. I'll meet you after my last patient.

And?
This is the fifth time you found him having an affair, right?
You came flying here with those thin clothes?
here
Well...
He's indeed being unfair to you.
Please stop coming to my place every time you guys have a fight.
Of course he is being unfair!!
He cleaned up my cell's address book from all the people I had sex with, friends I got money from, and even important bargain sales number!
Ack!!
delete
beep
hyuph
Bargain sales number?
He said before that he'd cut ties with all of his lovers to stay faithful to me.
And he cheated on me again.

Think of them as a hassle.
You two have been together for almost three years already.
Give him a last chance.
Last chance?
I gave him the last chance before, remember?
.....
What do you got to say now?
...then, I'll do the same.
thump
grapple
shock
I can have an affair with you!!
I'll have an affair, too!!
WHAT!?
What did you say?
press
press
press
press
press
press
Watch out for my cigarette!
Stop soying scary things like that!!
Do it elsewhere!
H-hey!!
Cut it out!! I'm straight, you know!!
Don't worry! You'll enjoy it in no time!!

I'll look for someone else out there!
I've done it before! Right now, anyone will do!!
Damn! I hurt his feelings ..
Co
Ah...
What...
You don't have to reject me so bluntly...
...it's okay.
I'LL LOOK FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HAVE AN AFFAIR WITH ME.
Hey!!
slam
AND THEN I'LL BREAK IT UP WITH KEI-CHAN!
Oh. The new store inside this building has futons for sale ..
Huh? My wallet!
My cell phone, too...
shock
No wonder there are no calls...
To some café around here?
But... where should I go?
Nah. Kei-chan would find me there...
shiver
So cold...
I should have borrowed a coat or something warm from Shiba...
I'LL MAKE HIM FEEL THE SAME PAIN.

There was also that handsome and kind person.
Hidaka-san...
What is he doing now, I wonder...
The ones who were kind to me...
The ones who were good at sex...
Damn! I want to call them now.
But I don't have my cell phone.
Why...
Why did I choose Kei-chan...
I got plenty of choices back then.
For now, I should go to a convenience store to warm up...
It was always me who contacted him first back then.
Megumu-kun?
Step
Sniff
.....
Look what I've done...

WHAT IS IT CALLED...?

DESTINED ENCOUNTER?

THIS KIND OF MEETING

Clinic
SHIBA
Hello~
He left.
I'm here to get Megumu. Sorry for disturbing you again and again.
He said he's going to have an affair with so much enthusiasm.
Enthusiasm!? Why didn't you stop him!?
Why should I stop him?
We've been friends for quite a long time, right!?
Don't take me for granted.

Sigh
creak
He tried to attack me saying that anyone will do.
This time it seems to be worst than ever.
You didn't do anything to him, did you!?
Of course not!!
Why don't you fix that bad habit of yours?
Do you know that the two of you are the only gay couple I know that last the longest?
You mean about you having affairs?
Well...
I need to do this so I can always love him.
Embracing the one you love after having an affair or doing it with another guy feels different, you know...
How should I explain it...

YOU'RE REALLY AN ASSHOLE!!
The sex becomes more passionate that way.
He was crying.
He should have dumped you years ago.
I don't think Megumu will be happy if he knows. Don't you feel sorry for him?
What can I do!? My company went bankrupt all of a sudden!
You don't know how scary the recession is nowadays!
No wonder, though. Since you became unemployed.
You must be desperately insecure to choose that kind of method.
And how kind of me, taking good care of both of you.
So, I was right.
And now, you're testing his feelings for you by cheating on him.
Back then you said you like Megumu because he doesn't mind you being friendly with other guys, right?
I'm the happiest when he gets mad and cries because of me.
I can't stop myself.
flare

If you keep on testing Megumu like this,
one day he'll leave you for good
You do remember...
that he likes guys in suits, right?
YOUR SUIT FITS YOU WELL! KEI-CHAN! YOU'RE SO COOL!!
I can do cos... oh, that's the wrong word. I can always wear the suit for him.
←Answering roughly
I can tie him down with my necktie anyway.
Yes, that's one possibility
But I don't think it'll be the best solution for the problem now...
Possibility?
You think it's possible?
Maybe right now, Megumu-kun is spending his time with a guy in suit...
Uwaaahh!!
What a hassle!!
Let's look for him together!!
Why would I go with you?
GRIP
We know each other since Junior high school, right!?
So...
Please help me look for him!
...

Maybe I can have an affair with Hidaka-san. That'd be perfect!
Sorry for having you treat me for a meal here.
clatter
Huh? Yes. Thank you.
Feeling warmer now?
clink
clatter
Or is it just Hidaka-san who looks good in anything?
A guy in a suit is indeed the best ..
Ha ha ha
I'm just getting you a meal from a family restaurant, remember?

Unlike Kei-chan, Hidaka-san has always been nice to me
I almost froze to death. And hungry..
For me, this is a luxury I can't have everyday.
Given my current economic condition..
Really?
He often treated me to have meals in famous restaurants.
However...

Should I feel relieved upon hearing that? Or should I start to worry?
I can't choose which one.
Oh...
I'm still married. I haven't filed a divorce yet.
Ah...
Is that so?
stare

It's fine. Eat carefully.
glomp
munch munch munch
I'll finish my food quickly so I won't take more of your time.
Ah~
When I'm done eating, I'll go home immediately.
Unlike the past
you won't spend your time with me after dinner, huh?
SOMETHING...
Oh. Really?
Oh.., My address book got deleted.
I'm happy I've met you again. I thought we would never see each other anymore.
gulp.....
I've always been waiting for you to call.
SOMETHING FELT WRONG JUST NOW....

Would you mind giving me your contact information again?
Huh?
I forgot... I don't have my cell phone with me right now...
I'll be careful so your wife won't find out about me. I won't give you any trouble.
You haven't changed at all, have you?
What...?
You mean I'm still as stupid as ever?
I wish you could speak up selfishly. Like, asking me to get a divorce...?
"I know you aren't serious with me" and "I'll try not to be a trouble to you".
Back then, you often had those remarks out from your lips, right?
The truth is, I feel a little lonely hearing it...

Though I'm not sure he would do that even if I ask him to ..
.....
Huh?
So Hidaka-san haven't left his wife because I haven't asked him to?
Telling me all that right now is kind of...
The ring on his sweet finger is the proof
That's not fair, you know...

Thank you for the meal.
You're welcome.
WHAT DO I DO NOW...
SHOULD I STAY WITH HIDAKA-SAN, OR...
BUT...
Hidaka-san. Do you love your wife?
Love...?
She's important to me, if that's what you want to know.
"THEN, HOW ABOUT ME?" I STOPPED MYSELF BEFORE ASKING THE QUESTION.
Having the one you love and the one important to you in 2 different people is kind of unfair, don't you think?
pull
fling
This is for you.

Go home before you catch a cold.
Yes. I will.
Thank you for everything.
I'm leaving now.
Okay.
I'm glad today we've met again.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR HIS PHONE NUMBER.
MEGUMU

I've seen him a couple of times so I remember his face
ERR... WHAT'S HIS NAME AGAIN?
HIDAKA-SAN?
I saw you with a guy in a suit before
YOU'VE SLEPT WITH GUYS OTHER THAN ME, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH.
Hey Don't smoke in bed

I THOUGHT I HEARD A LAME JOKE FROM HIM.

OKAY.

BUT EVEN IF IT WAS A JOKE, I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF FEELING HAPPY...

UP UNTIL THEN, NO ONE ELSE HAD EVER ASKED ME TO GET SERIOUS WITH THEM.

WHAT?!
ARE YOU SERI-OUS!?
YOU MEAN STARTING NOW!?
Ack Your pin number is still set at default.
Alright then
I'LL CLEAN UP YOUR PHONE'S ADDRESS BOOK RIGHT NOW

I KNOW IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER...
BUT SOMEHOW I FEEL MISERABLE
AT LEAST...
HE COMES BACK TO ME AFTER EVERY AFFAIR. JUST LIKE HIDAKA-SAN WHO GOES HOME TO HIS WIFE...
Then I found out he slept with another guy while having a relationship with me. It's no big deal actually.
Before... both of us never had any serious relationship. We changed partners for fun...
I THOUGHT
KEI-CHAN AND I WOULD BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
This muffler is warm...
I WISH, IN THE END HE'D STILL CHOOSE ME...
IF he's really sorry for what he has done
I'll forgive him I'll forgive him once again
Megumu!!

Thank goodness I found you!!
We've been looking all over for you!
Oh. You found him?
Let's go home to...
step
push
!?

Megumu!!

THUD

Are you alright?
thump
Yeah...
thump
thump
Wasn't it Keiichi who's supposed to save him at times like this? That useless shit!

.....
frozen....
Natsuki...

Shiba!
Please take care of Megumu!
Wait!!
sharp pain
...!!
whoosh
Hey!
Nat-suki!!
Wait!!
Wait for me!!
Don't go!!
Don't go!!
I said, don't go!!
...!!

You sprained your ankle.
I'll examine it for you while waiting for Keiichi. Let's go to my place.
I'll call a cab. Wait here, okay?
...okay.

Natsuki... he's...
kind of pretty, don't you think?
Huh?
Well, yeah... you can say that.
Though I saw only a glimpse of him...
Let go of my arm, please.
grab

You know? Since a long time ago...
He has been in love with Kei-chan.
But he never chooses partners just for fun like Kei-chan and I did back then...
Really...?
The guys Kei-chan has affairs with until now were all the easy-going type...
But now...
he's with someone who takes a relationship seriously...
Kei-chan always has affairs with guys I know.
So you are not angry that he pushed you down the stairs?
It's a good thing coming from you, I guess..

Do you think...
He does it on purpose so I can easily find out?
Well... How should I put it..
I can't say that all his guesses are correct

How come?
No...
I don't think so.
He wants to break up with me
Is that why he's having affairs so openly...?
Gosh! I really suck at this
Maybe today...
He won't come to pick me up...

What's so happy about making the one you love cries his eyes out like this?
Should I...
break up with him?
Yeah...
Maybe it's better if you do that.
All he can do is make you cry and cry.
You should just leave a guy like that.

Yeah...
You're right...
I'll seriously have Megumu for myself, if you don't come here to take him this instant, Kenichi
...
Good for you.
clack
I left the door unlocked. Come in.
Yeah. He's here.
Yes?

Your man is here to take you home.
creak
Sorry I'm late...
What is the meaning of that jealous glare you're pointing at me!?
You're really annoying!
You're done talking with that Natsuki guy?
Yup.
.....
You're awake?
Keiichi has come to get you.

Let's go home.
I won't go!!
hug
I'm staying here!!
Don't you dare glare at me like that!
Annoying!
You can go to Natsuki's place or whoever you like!

About that matter
I've talked it over with him.
Let's go.
screech
.....!!
He sprained his ankle when he fell from that stairs.

I'll take you home
Come on.
Shiba. Help him get onto my back.
turn
kneel
I said we're over and I won't go home with you!!
You don't have to say sorry!!
You and I... we're over!!
I'm sorry...
Let go of me!! Shiba!!
struggle
No!! I won't go home!!
struggle
No he doesn't!!
Come on~
He feels sorry already.
Lift

AH!!
.....
Stop moving so much, will you?
Put Me Down!!
take
Shiba!
Doesn't matter if the muffler is ruined. Tie him as tightly as possible!
Got it!
Why do you even remember him like that!?
Wasn't he the guy in suit you liked so much back then?
tighten
You'll tear it!!
Hida-ka?
That's the muffler Hidaka-san gave me!!

I'm really sorry.
Sorry...
.....
I won't do it again...

Sorry.
For you, that is.
You know ...
I made you hurt your ankle.
This was a punishment.
Back there on the stairs...
I was scared to death
when I failed to catch you.
IN THE PAST I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T MIND IF YOU'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR JUST FOR FUN...
IT'S OKAY, IF YOU WANT TO BE WITH SOMEONE ELSE FOR A MOMENT.
Even though it would sadden me...
I will forgive you if you weren't serious with your affairs.

"I'M GLAD YOU STILL GO BACK TO YOUR WIFE."
This is my punishment for having that kind of thought.
I'm glad you return back
"HIDAKA-SAN,"
to my side.
.....

You aren't ...
Ng?
You aren't blaming Natsuki, are you?
I'm really sorry.
but this is all your fault, Kei-chan!
Indeed
I don't like his way of revenge...
Megumu
I like that personality of yours.
What? Do you really feel sorry for what you have done!?
Yeah. I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.

RUINED
Aarghh!!
You ruined the muffler!!
The muffler Hidaka-san gave me...
Keep yourself prepared for more.
.....
Can I survive this with just a minor injury?
So much punishment for me for being unable to save you I might die from all the punishment.
Oh no..
What!?
Damn you, Shiba..
And Shiba agrees with me that I'm better off without you
Okay... I won't do it again.
strangle strangle strangle
Alright~
We'll be over for real if you dare do it again.

Nothing happened between you and that Hidaka guy, right?
Hey...
...when I got myself some money, of course.
I'll buy you a new one.
You don't want to talk about it?
There's nothing between us!!
Well...
NO.
What?
Let's make love to celebrate our reconciliation.
Nn!!
No you don't...
I repent myself.
You're really not feeling sorry for what you have done, are you?

hah
Ng...
hah
.....

Ah!
The room hasn't been warmed enough
You stu...
and I like seeing you being impatient...
.....!!
Nn...
Wa...
Wait a sec...
I'll take off my clothes.

I'll be careful
so I won't hurt your sprained ankle.
...thank you
Sheesh!
There's no helping it then.
...you're always so impatient.
hah
hah
He really
treats me gently this time.

Nah
I feel it, too...
Nah
Yeah...
It feels strange.
We're not having rough sex like we always do...
Nah
Shudder
grip
.....!!
Ng...
Fool. Don't put so much stress to your ankle, okay?
You dare call me a fool? Whose fault do you think...
Sigh
.....
Kiss

No...
Aah!
I'm...
...coming...
hah
hah
No way...
shudder
Me... too.

...

How wonderful if you can't use this leg forever...

Your ankle...
Huh? What is it?
Ouch!!
It hurts!!
pull
grab

That way
you won't be able ta leave me.
.....!!
blush
I can't go to work if I can't walk.
Then we won't have any income to cover our daily expenses.
Oh...
You're right.
Of course I am.
Don't say such things with such a serious face, would you?
Come here. You'll catch a cold if you don't get under the blanket.
slide
lean

"WOULD YOU GET SERIOUS WITH ME?"
"I'LL DO THE SAME."
I would be at ease if I could have you all for myself.
THAT TIME, IT SEEMED SO EASY...
I'd be at ease, too...

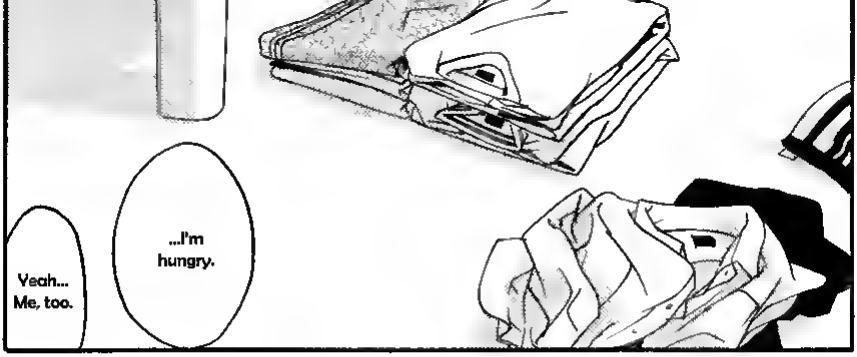
BEING TOUCHED BY ONE'S KINDNESS

OR BEING SHOWN ONE'S DESIRE FOR ME— STRAIGHT OUT

THOSE THINGS...

CAN STILL MAKE ME HAPPY.

The recession inclines...
Kei-chon. We only have cheese to eat tonight. What should we do with it?
Oh...
Looks like it's going to be hard looking for a white collar job nowadays...
The employee downsizing of OO company is...
But, since you like suits that much...
Ha-ah
After all, it's not the unemployed you that worries me.
I'll be fine as long as you don't cheat on me again.
Really? Don't worry. I won't do it again. I'll never do it again!
We still can manage our life expenses with my current part time job.
He's still worried about the suit?
tap
tap


Yeah... Me, too.
...I'm hungry.

Shiba~
SHIBA
thopedic Clinic
give us something to eat.

Sorry for intruding.
I'm hungry but I still have to wait for my payment day which is tomorrow.
Stupid duo!
Not having proper work isn't the root of all your problems.
It's you not having firm foundation is the real matter!!
END

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